



THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN POPULATIONS: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND CURRENT INSIGHTS

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the history of human rights, beginning with ancient legal codes and philosophical discourses and progressing to crucial changes throughout the Age of Revolutions and the construction of global human rights frameworks in the twentieth century. The research focuses on major events, such as the 1948 ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which established the foundation for international human rights legislation. In this century, the article investigates contemporary movements in protection of marginalized communities, positive and negative implications of globalization with respect to human rights, as well as current barriers imposed by authoritarian regimes, nationalistic tendencies and global problems. Most importantly, the paper underscores the role of global perspectives on solidarity, education and lobbying in assertion of human rights in a more integrated and active world.

Human rights are the fundamental freedoms and liberties that all people possess and are unaffected by criteria such as nationality, gender, ethnicity, religion, or other distinguishing characteristics. They provide the foundation for societal well-being, equality, and human dignity. Human rights have grown substantially over centuries, from local standards to international declarations and treaties. This article investigates the global promotion and protection of human rights, including its historical growth, watershed moments, and present concerns.

Historical Context: Early Origins of Human Rights

Human rights trace their origins back to early legal systems that established the principles of justice in ancient societies. One of the first documented legal codes, the Code of Hammurabi (c. 1754 B.C.), established benchmarks for justice and accountability. The concepts of fairness and individual rights were explored by philosophers in ancient times, such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle—topics that continue to be relevant today.

The concept of human rights evolved significantly during the 17th and early to mid-18th centuries, a period known as the Enlightenment. Thinkers of this era, such as John Locke, championed the fundamental rights to life, liberty, and property. These early ideas established the groundwork for contemporary understandings of human rights, emphasizing that respect for individual liberty is a crucial aspect of a legitimate government.

The Age of Revolutions

The Age of Revolutions, marked by the American (1775-1783) and French (1789) Revolutions, significantly advanced the argument for human rights. The Declaration of Independence famously stated that "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" are unalienable rights, embodying the American Revolution's introduction of the concept that governmental power comes from the consent of the governed.

The concept of human rights as a broad and fundamental idea can be traced back to the French Revolution, highlighted by documents like the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. These ideas laid the groundwork for global revolutionary movements, ultimately establishing human rights as a crucial element of democratic governance and philosophy.

The 20th Century and Global Frameworks

The twentieth century marked a significant shift in the global human rights movement, largely driven by the devastating revelations of World War II. The suffering caused by the war led world leaders to create a framework for international human rights, culminating in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. This landmark document articulated a series of freedoms and rights considered essential for safeguarding the human experience.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was followed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1966 which was established to uphold these rights. This advance demonstrated a universal consensus that these rights needed to be protected and nurtured in nations everywhere. Those kind of strides really demonstrated the determination of the world in upholding and respecting those rights on the world stage.

Contemporary Developments: Human Rights in the Century 21st

The field of human rights continues to change as the 21st century moves on, just as society does. Movements campaigning for disadvantaged populations' rights, such as racial justice, gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and indigenous peoples, have grown significantly. The rise of intersectional perspectives in international human rights law emphasizes the need of inclusive approaches of human rights advocacy, as well as the connections between various sorts of discrimination.

Globalization and Human Rights

Globalization Human Rights Global implications Its principal positive dimension is that it stimulates the spread of standards and ideas, hence generating more advocacy for human rights. Grassroots organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have used social media and technology to raise human rights awareness in areas where none existed or were suppressed across the world.

On the other hand, globalization does have its downsides: labor exploitation, environmental degradation and creating an unequal economic space come to mind most prominently. The reason Multinational corporations are able to abuse workers rights all over the world is because they usually do so in countries with almost mere minimum labour regulations. Addressing this problem will require deliberate global action to embed human rights in economic activity and hold corporations accountable.

Contemporary Challenges

Despite the notable achievements so far, a number of barriers still exist to the growth of human rights. And, as it is still seen in various parts of the globe, the authoritarian regimes do

not allow any opposing view and free expression of ideas from the people, even among the already marginalized groups. Many countries have seen a rise in nationalism, making the exclusion of vulnerable groups somewhat expected.

Armed conflicts, mass migrations, and climate change are just a few examples of global crises that threaten human rights. These issues hit disadvantaged communities the hardest, subjecting them to violence, displacement, and restricted access to essential resources.

Conclusion

Human rights development within communities is a continuous, dynamic process impacted by both the past and the present. Even if there has been great progress in the protection and safeguarding of human rights, there are still challenges that highlight the importance of continued attention to detail and decisive action. Global collaboration among individuals, groups, and governments is critical.

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